

# Mellon Asks 250 Million Expense Cut Or Higher Tax

**Tells House Committee  
Revenue Must Not Fall  
Below \$3,570,000,000:  
Drastic Changes Urged**

**\$4,550,000,000 Is  
Needed for Year**

## Outlines Legislation to Yield \$3,990,000,000; Proposes New Levies and Dropping of Others

*From The Tribune's Washington Bureau*  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—Further drastic cuts must be made in government expenditures if there is to be a material reduction in the burden of the next fiscal year, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon said to-day in laying before the House Committee on Ways and Means the basis upon which the revenue bill is to be framed. If no cuts are made in expense, he pointed out, the tax burden must be increased. In any event, he said, the internal revenue yield could not safely be allowed to fall below \$3,570,000,000, the return under the present tax laws.

After taking into account all proposed reductions in expenditures, the Treasury estimates that the total expenditure for the fiscal year 1922 for which provision must be made out of the current revenues of the government, will be about \$4,550,000,000.

"This in itself would mean a substantial reduction in current revenues and expenditures below the fiscal year 1921," Secretary Mellon told the committee. "The total ordinary revenues for 1921 amounted to about \$5,825,000,000, or over \$1,000,000,000 in excess of the revenues estimated to be nec-

The Treasury estimate does not mean, he pointed out, that \$4,550,000,000 must be provided by taxation, for it is expected that there will be miscellaneous revenues during the year from salvage and sources other than taxation amounting to about \$350,000,000. This would leave \$4,200,000,000 to be provided from customs and internal revenues.

**\$250,000,000 Cut Needed**

The additional cuts in expenditures, which must precede the avoidance of any new taxes to supplant some of those to be repealed, must amount to at least \$250,000,000, he said.

Mr. Mellon sounded in this connection the further warning that "unless there is an extraordinary new effort to reduce expenditures, the estimates of the Federal Treasury has presented may be regarded as conservative." This is indicated, he said, in the actual expenditures for the first full month of the present fiscal year.

"Ordinary expenditures for July, 1921," the Secretary said, "amounted to \$322,000,000, as against \$307,000,000 for July, 1920. The extraordinary expenditure for July, 1921, was about \$113,000,000, as against \$76,000,000 for July, 1920.

"An analysis of the principal items of expenditure for July, 1921, shows that \$59,000,000 was on account of the War Department, \$56,000,000 on account of the navy and \$32,000,000 on account of the Shipping Board. If expenditures are to continue at anything like these rates, the estimates will be greatly exceeded.

"Without the assurance of substantial additional reductions in expenditures, it would be hard to proceed to reduce expenditures, and to reduce the reduced expenditure. Even without change in the law revenue will shrink from natural causes, and will shrink according to the present outlook, at

### Treasury's Proposals

The Secretary presented to the committee the Treasury's proposals for a general revision of the tax laws. The proposals would increase federal revenue and customs under the revisions, if effective January 1, 1922, would be \$3,990,000,000. The revision upon which this estimate is based includes:

A new tariff law in effect about December 31, 1921.

The increase of the corporation income tax to 15 per cent and the repeal of the \$2,000 exemption.

The repeal of the excess profits tax.

Increased collections of back income and profits taxes.

An increase in the tax on cigarettes and smoking and chewing tobacco.

The repeal of the transportation tax upon freight and passengers, the tax to be reduced one-half January 1, 1922, and entirely repealed January 1, 1923.

Certain of the stamp taxes to be materially increased.

An annual Federal license tax upon motor vehicles, averaging about \$10

The repeal of the tax on ice cream and fountain drinks.

The repeal of miscellaneous taxes levied under Section 904 of the revenue act of 1913 as of January 1, 1922.

A revision of the income tax rates, with the maximum surtax rate reduced from 32 to 28 per cent.

Discussing these proposed repeal and new taxes, Secretary Mellon said:

"The estimates of revenue under the revised law assume that a more productive tariff law will be adopted, and that the total revenue for the fiscal year 1922 will be \$1,000,000,000 and that the total revenue for the fiscal year 1923 will be \$1,000,000,000.

"The total net income subject to the higher surtax rates is rapidly declining, and funds which would otherwise be invested in productive enterprises are being driven into fields which do not produce income.

"The estimated revenue from the surtaxes under existing law is about \$500,000,000.